



Central Nevada Health District Health Officer's Report

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Attached is a summary of events and activities for the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) for the *second* quarter of 2026.

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Division continued its commitment to protecting public health through proactive inspection, permitting, plan review, and community engagement activities across the district, fulfilling statutory obligations of compliance and enforcement in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code, Nevada Revised Statutes, and CNHD Regulations

For Q2, Environmental Health Specialists conducted a total of 41 inspections of permitted establishments.

Supporting Nevada's Cottage Food Program, the Division reviewed existing and approved 20 new Cottage Food Operation registrations. Staff is working with all permit holders to be made aware of the transfer of the program to the State of Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Plan Reviews (New & Remodel Construction) 7

Temporary Event Inspections: 80

CNHD is working with partners to review and present to the CNHD Board of Health on July 8, 2026, for approval of the BurningMan Mass Gathering Permit. As of January 2026, the temporary event applications were released, with only 46 being submitted in the quarter, which is within the normal

range by this time, if over 300. E staff is working closely with PHP staff for Burning Man planning. Staff will be at the event August 30 – September 6, 2026, with prior catering, wastewater, and water pumper truck inspections mid-August,

During Q2, the Environmental Health Specialist Staff obtained her Registered Environmental Health Specialist Certification.

EH staff attended NACCHO Preparedness Summit, the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, and the Retail Program Standards Symposium (Virtually).

The Environmental Health Manager has resigned from her position. A contract has been obtained with the Department of Agriculture to provide EHS oversight and support until the position is filled and onboarded.

Environmental fees are being re-evaluated for missing items. An updated schedule will be presented to the CNHD Board of Health in the November Public Comment.

Regulations are being evaluated for completeness. It has been found that CNHD is missing some processes for applicants, such as for Labor Camps. The goal is for a full review and implementation in early 2027.

Epidemiology Program

During Q2, the Epidemiology Program continued to strengthen disease surveillance, public health preparedness, data analysis, and community health programming throughout the CNHD jurisdiction. The program maintained routine surveillance for reportable communicable diseases, monitored emerging public health threats, supported healthcare and community partners, and continued development of public-facing health data resources.

Surveillance and Communicable Disease Monitoring

Respiratory Viruses

The 2025–2026 respiratory virus season concluded at the end of May. Respiratory virus activity declined substantially throughout April and May and returned to expected seasonal patterns by June.

- Influenza activity remained low during the quarter, with 19 cases reported during April–June.
- RSV activity continued its seasonal decline, with 20 cases reported during the quarter.
- COVID-19 activity remained low, with 9 cases reported during the quarter.
- No significant increases in respiratory virus-related hospitalizations or deaths were identified during the reporting period.
- CNHD has transitioned to routine summer respiratory virus surveillance and is preparing for the 2026–2027 respiratory virus season.

CNHD continues to monitor summer respiratory events via emergency department, inpatient, outpatient, and laboratory surveillance data to identify changes in respiratory virus activity and emerging trends.

General Communicable Diseases

CNHD continued routine surveillance, investigation, and response for reportable communicable diseases throughout the quarter. Overall, communicable disease activity remained relatively low, with decreases noted across many disease categories.

Cases reported during the quarter included hepatitis C, salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, norovirus, rotavirus, cryptosporidiosis, Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC), legionellosis, and invasive pneumococcal disease. Epidemiology staff continued case investigation and follow-up activities, including coordination with healthcare providers, laboratories, and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health as appropriate.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

CNHD continued surveillance and case investigation for sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, and syphilis. Epidemiology staff continued timely case follow-up, investigation, and coordination to support appropriate treatment and prevention of transmission.

Measles Preparedness and Surveillance

CNHD maintained enhanced surveillance and preparedness activities related to measles during the quarter. No confirmed, probable, or suspected measles cases were reported within the CNHD jurisdiction during the reporting period.

The Epidemiology Program continued coordination with healthcare providers, hospitals, schools, and DPBH to support rapid reporting, testing, investigation, and implementation of control measures should a suspected case occur. Healthcare providers were reminded of the importance of immediately reporting suspected measles cases.

Emerging Disease Monitoring

CNHD continued to monitor emerging and potentially high-consequence infectious disease threats. During June, the Epidemiology Program maintained situational awareness regarding the international Ebola Virus Disease situation and provided healthcare partners with information regarding travel history assessment, early recognition, infection prevention, and reporting procedures. No Ebola cases were identified in Nevada.

Outbreak Response and Preparedness

There were no active outbreaks within the CNHD jurisdiction requiring formal outbreak response during the quarter.

The Epidemiology Program continued to maintain preparedness for rapid response to communicable disease outbreaks and emerging public health threats through ongoing surveillance, investigation protocols, healthcare partner coordination, and monitoring of state and national public health alerts.

In April, CNHD presented its investigation and response to the 2025 H5N1 outbreak at the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) Conference. The presentation highlighted CNHD's experience conducting surveillance, exposure monitoring, coordination with healthcare and agricultural partners, and implementation of response measures during the outbreak.

Public Health Data and Surveillance Dashboards

CNHD continued development and implementation of public-facing disease surveillance dashboards during Q2.

The Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard is being developed to provide timely and transparent information regarding respiratory virus activity in the CNHD jurisdiction. The dashboard will include current case counts, hospitalization and demographic information, deaths, and historical trend data.

Development also continued on the General Communicable Disease Dashboard, which will provide information on multiple reportable disease categories, including foodborne illnesses, hepatitis, tuberculosis, vaccine-preventable diseases, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, sexually transmitted infections, other reportable conditions, and Harmful Algal Bloom alerts.

These dashboards will improve public access to health information, increase situational awareness, and support data-informed public health decision-making.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Community Education

CNHD completed its Heart Attack and Stroke Prevention chronic disease education series across all four counties during the quarter. A total of 44 community members participated:

- Fallon: 22 participants
- Hawthorne: 13 participants

- Lovelock: 5 participants
- Eureka: 4 participants

Due to strong community interest, two classes were offered in Fallon. Participants provided positive feedback and reported gaining new knowledge and strategies to improve heart health and reduce their risk of chronic disease.

CNHD also began implementing a Diabetes Prevention education series during Q2. Classes were initiated in May, with three counties completing their classes by the end of June. The final class is scheduled for July (Q3). CNHD is brainstorming future chronic disease prevention strategies and will be turning its focus to private well-water testing and treatment in the future quarters.

Public Health Preparedness

For Q2, the Public Health Preparedness Program continued to strengthen regional readiness and response capabilities through collaboration, planning, training, and resource development. Program staff worked closely with local and state partners to fulfill grant objectives by actively participating in state-led and local meetings (LEPC), training, and exercises designed to enhance emergency preparedness coordination across jurisdictions.

Throughout this quarter, the program continued to experience staffing challenges. As of this reporting period, the position has been posted, an applicant has been selected and accepted the offer, and their start date is June 20, 2026. This person withdrew the day that he was supposed to start.

The CNHD Public Health Preparedness Plan has been completed. Staff are working with local LEPC on feedback.

Staff continued collaboration, training, planning, and resource development with State of Nevada PHP partners, health districts, county partners, and stakeholders.

PHP staff are working closely with EH staff for BurnignMan planning. Staff will be at the event August 30 – September 6, 2026.

Clinic Services

January – March 2026 Update

Clinic Patients

The APRN/MD evaluated/treated 23 patients. The services provided to these patients included:

- 9 people for contraception
- 21 people for STI screening/testing
- 2 people for STI treatment
- 7 people for cervical and breast cancer screening
- 1 person for other urogenital infection treatment

The RN saw a total of 113 patient visits. Of those patients, the RN:

- Administered 54 vaccines and provided immunization education
- Screened 44 people for tuberculosis (including HOSA students)

Community Outreach

Senior Center visits:

We attended 18 Senior Center/Life Center visits. At those visits, we provided:

- administered 3 vaccines
- 49 blood pressure checks
- 2 Health guidance referrals to follow up with PCP
- Health/vaccine education to 36 people
- WEB IZ look-up for 9 people

Family Planning & Sexual Health Services

The volume of CNHD clinic visits for Family Planning has decreased in the summer months. quarter. Chlamydia case numbers are consistent over the last year (no significant increase or decreases).

Immunization & Outreach Services

Efforts to increase vaccination rates have included distributing outreach flyers in all communities and on social media platforms, offering all vaccines and highlighting MMR immunization. To enhance awareness, coloring books focusing on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases, along with childhood immunization schedules, were distributed at each back-to-school event.

Outreach efforts have been ongoing at senior centers in Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, and Pershing counties.

Tuberculosis Prevention & Control

Tuberculosis prevention events involve the routine weekly collection of QuantiFERON Gold tests to clients of the residential treatment facility in Churchill County. Additionally, nursing school and high school students, as well others in the community are offered TST skin tests. The clinical team will meet in November 2026 to finalize revisions to plan for 2027.

Other Clinical Happenings

- CNHD Clinical Services started in Eureka. On our visit in March, we saw two patients. We continually increase our social media presence with our dates but expect to have patients after our ad in the local newspaper.
- An application has been made to add CLIA-waived (point-of-care testing) tests to our state Laboratory Exempt License, including a combination HIV/Syphilis, urinalysis, capillary lead testing, and hemoglobin. We are preparing for an inspection, which is scheduled for 8/24/2026. Northern Nevada Health District laboratory director is meeting with the CNHD clinical director on 08/04/2026 to help in preparation for the inspection.
- Dr. McDonald has been performing APRN activities for Family Planning since March 2026.
- The RN completed IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) audit training and has since completed four IQIP and VFC site audits. In April, May, and June, she completed three VFC compliance audits for VFC providers in our jurisdiction- all prior to the end of the fiscal year, as per grant requirements.
- Clinical services is collaborating with the Epidemiology and Resource Liaison teams for the implementation of Chronic Disease Education in our communities- education classes conducted in all counties in our jurisdiction. One additional class was held in Churchill County on 4/14/26.
- Back-to-school events are planned for August 2026. The RN has ordered stock of the vaccines in preparation.
- Athletic health physicals will be offered to residents of the Central Nevada Health District for August at the CNHD clinics by appointment. Space for 30 exams is projected. As Mineral, Eureka, and Pershing Counties have targeted and well-established sports physical offerings this year, it is expected that the majority of exams will be provided in Churchill County.
- CNHD epidemiology and clinical personnel will be meeting with a representative from the Gilead organization on 08/05/2026 to investigate partnering with State HIV programs that focus on testing, education, and prevention.
- The UNR School of Medicine (UNSOM) had a Rural Outreach Clinic (ROC) in Fallon on August 2, 2026. 34 patients were seen. 24 sports physicals were performed. The next clinic will be October 18, 2026. The event is advertised by UNSOM, Churchill County, CNHD, and Churchill County School District through social media and local fliers. ROC has received funding to expand their "Street Clinic" program to rural and frontier Nevada. The program is designed to provide medical services to the unhoused and/or transportation-less patient populations.

- UNSOM, Renown, and Banner corporations continue to make progress in bringing a family practice residency to the Banner Churchill campus. Efforts currently are to define responsibilities of the corporate entities, educate providers that will be serving as mentors, and establish protocols that will ensure viability of the organization long after initial start-up grants fall aside.

Challenges

CNHD continually has challenges with hiring the following positions:

- APRN / Clinical Manager – In July, the Administrator will request to separate the two positions.
- Public Health Preparedness Planner
- Environmental Health Manager – A contract is being maintained with the Department of Agriculture for oversight and support.
- Resource Liaisons (CCHW's) in Eureka and Mineral Counties

Achievements

The Fallon CNHD location has been fully remodeled and will open July 8, 2026. The space allows for proper services to be delivered, Board Health meetings on-site, and increased functionality for the team.

CNHD submitted three Rural Health Transformation Grants to support increased telehealth services in frontier Nevada, Medicaid billable services support and training for Certified Community Health Workers, and the renovation of a CNHD Building.

CNHD sponsored the JTNN Health conference in Reno, Nevada. The opportunity provided staff to interact with over 325 people about the services provided and build greater knowledge of our mission.

The Community Health Needs Assessment was completed and released for Public Comment. Public Comment is being obtained through direct outreach to residents in each community.

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